## What is claimed is:

1. A thrombus filter configured for placement within a blood vessel lumen defined by a blood vessel wall, comprising:

a body portion;

a plurality of struts, each strut having a joined end and a free end; the joined end of each strut being fixedly attached to the body portion; and each strut including a weakened portion proximate the free end of the strut.

- 2. The thrombus filter of claim 1, wherein the free end of each strut includes a sharp projection.
- 3. The thrombus filter of claim 1, wherein each strut is rectangular in cross section.
- 4. The thrombus filter of claim 1, wherein each strut is circular in cross section.
- 5. The thrombus filter of claim 1, wherein the cross-sectional area of the strut is reduced proximate the weakened portion.
- 6. The thrombus filter of claim 1, wherein the weakened portion includes a notch.

- 7. The thrombus filter of claim 1, wherein the weakened portion includes a slot.
- 8. The thrombus filter of claim 1, wherein the weakened portion includes a hole.
- 9. A thrombus filter configured for placement within a blood vessel lumen defined by a blood vessel wall, comprising:

a body portion;

a plurality of struts, each strut having a joined end and a free end; the joined end of each strut being fixedly attached to the body portion; the free end of each strut including an anchor member; and each strut including a weakened portion proximate the anchor member.

- 10. The thrombus filter of claim 9, wherein the struts have a circular cross section.
- 11. The thrombus filter of claim 9, wherein the struts have a rectangular cross section.
- 12. The thrombus filter of claim 9, wherein the weakened portion includes a notch.

- 13. The thrombus filter of claim 9, wherein the weakened portion includes a slot.
- 14. The thrombus filter of claim 9, wherein the weakened portion includes a hole.
- 15. The thrombus filter of claim 9, wherein the free end of each strut includes a sharp projection.
- 16. A method of removing a thrombus filter from a blood vessel lumen inside a living being, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a thrombus filter including a plurality of struts, each strut having a free end;

the free end of each strut including an anchor member, and each strut including a weakened portion proximate the anchor member;

connecting a retrieval catheter to the thrombus filter; breaking each strut proximate the weakened portion; and withdrawing the filter from the vessel.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein each anchor member includes a sharp projection.

- 18. The method of claim 12, further including the step of applying a force to the thrombus filter, wherein the force applied is sufficient in magnitude to break the struts proximate the weakened portion.
- 19. The method of claim 12, further including the step of repeatedly deflecting the struts to induce fatigue cracking at the weakened portions of the struts.